

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



MEPAG

18 September, 2008



MARS

—the search for life

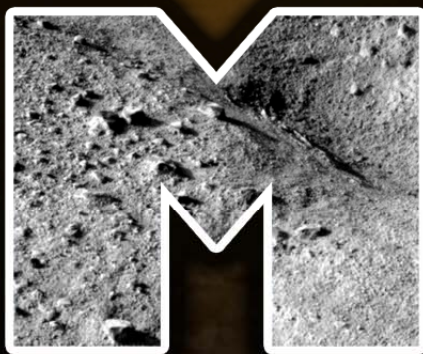
Doug McCuiston
Director, Mars Exploration Program

Agenda

- Recent Accomplishments and News
- MSL
- Where to from here?

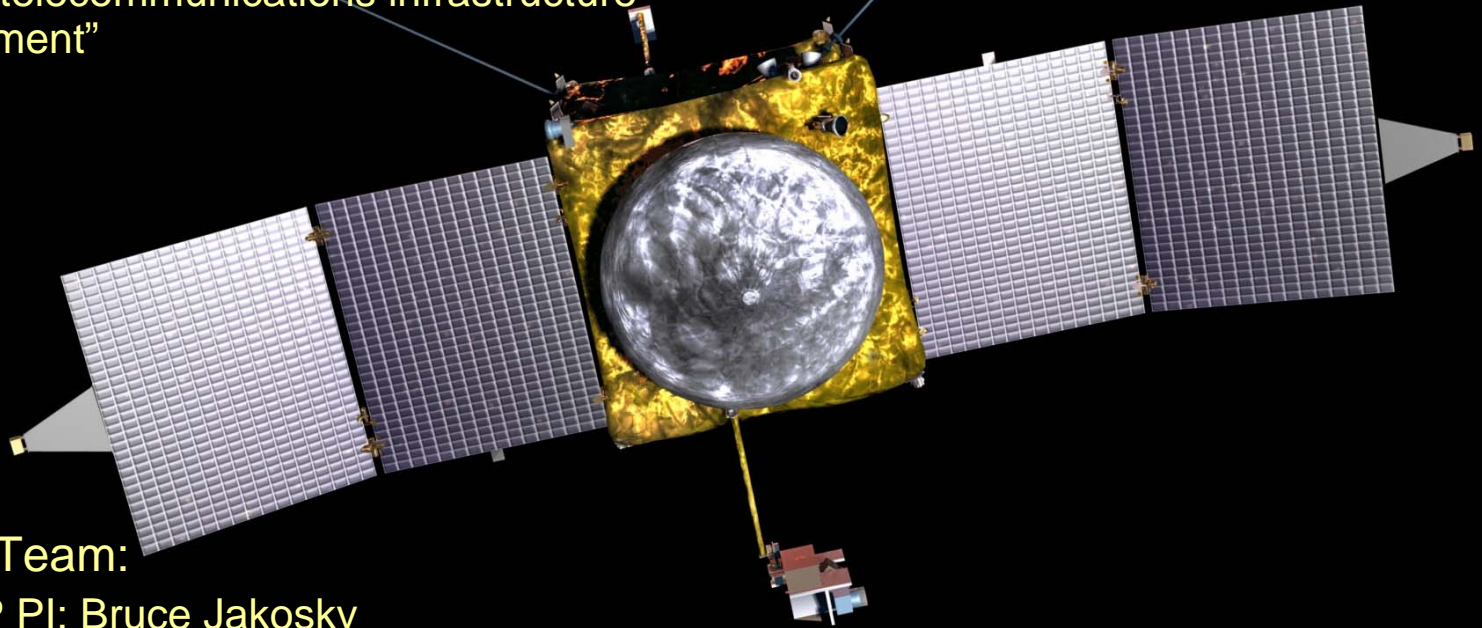


Greetings from



NASA Selects Scout-13—MAVEN

- Fulfillment of a high-priority National Academy of Science Objective—Aeronomy
- Importance to Mars Exploration Program:
 - Addresses key science objectives for upper atmosphere, solar wind interaction, and escape to space, as defined by MEPAG (2006) and the NRC (2003)
 - Provide telecommunications infrastructure “refreshment”



- The Mission Team:
 - CU/LASP PI: Bruce Jakosky
 - GSFC Project Management
 - Lockheed Martin spacecraft and Ops
 - Instruments from UCB, LASP, GSFC, and CESR/France

Miscellaneous News

- Dr. Ed Weiler replaced Dr. Alan Stern as Associate Administrator for Science in April '08
 - Mr. Chuck Gay replaced Dr. Colleen Hartmann as Deputy AA
 - Mr. Mike Luther replaced Mr. Todd May as Deputy AA for Programs
 - Other SMD front office changes have also occurred
- Dr. Mike Kelly appointed Program Scientist for Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO)
- First set of Mars Sample Return studies culminated in ESA-sponsored Conference in July 2008
 - ESA reorganization puts much of Mars exploration in the Science Directorate
- MSL cost challenges continue
- Re-evaluation of the Mars Program budget beginning with the FY10 Budget Process



Mars Science Laboratory

- Cache--status is TBD
- Still on track for 2009 launch
 - Critical deliveries are coming in!
- Overguide status
 - Exceeded 15% overguide threshold of NASA Authorization Act
- NASA paying CLOSE attention to progress and cost
 - Weekly and monthly reporting through to SMD AA
 - HQ participation in weekly JPL reviews
 - Reviews with NASA Administrator in February and May 2008
 - Next review October 2008
- MSL is not out of the woods yet, but progress is being made
 - Financial collateral damage is likely

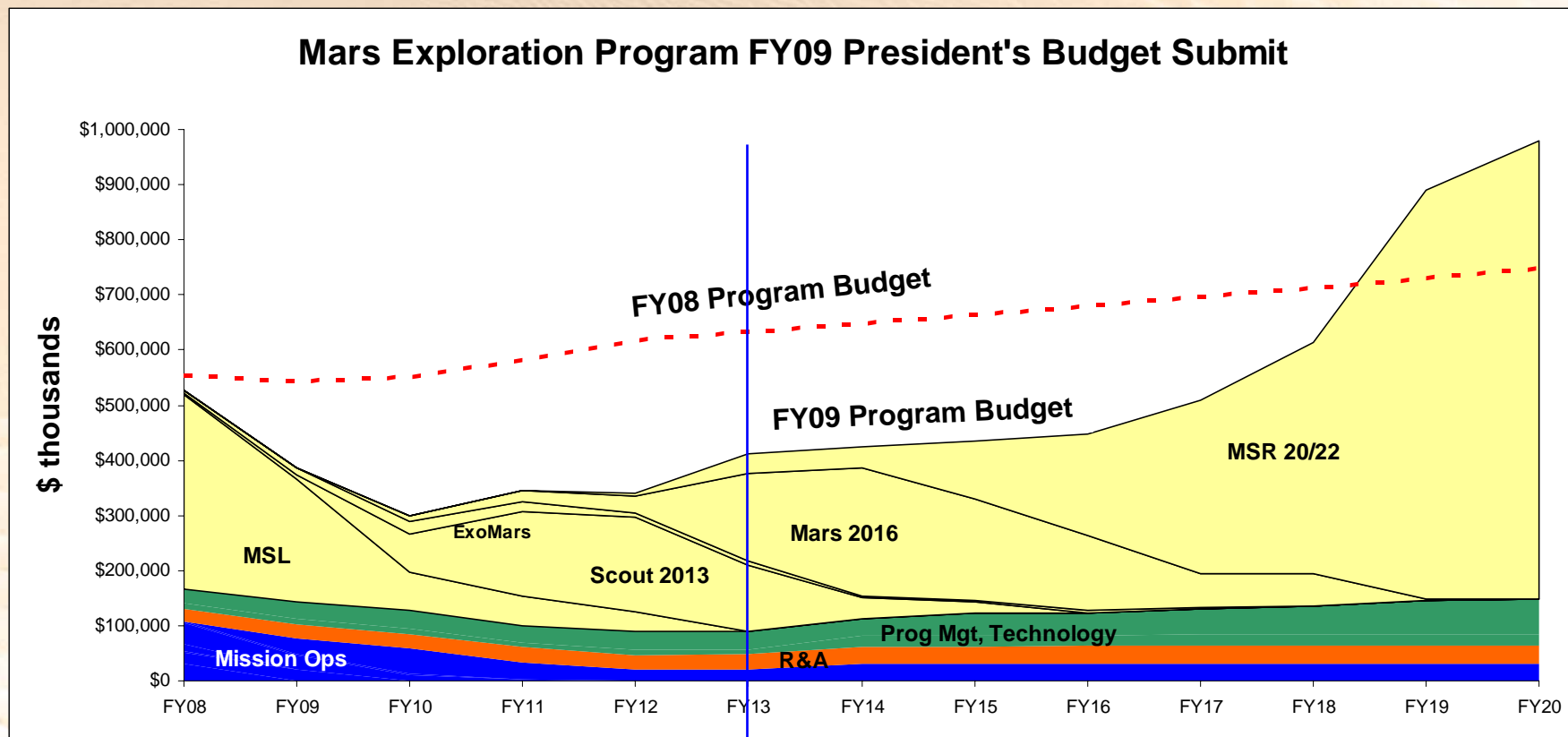


Drivers for Planning the Next Decade

- What are the driving requirements behind the Program's baseline content?
 - MEP architecture *must* be viable with or without Mars Sample Return
 - MSR in 2018 is *not viable* with the FY09 budget, or maybe any budget that can be expected in the near term
- What are the drivers for developing Program content?
 - The mission portfolio must reflect methodical scientific progress and stakeholder expectations—alignment with NRC and MEPAG
 - It must include missions for science and infrastructure
- How does Mars Sample Return fit in the architecture?
- Technology development must enable all missions in the portfolio

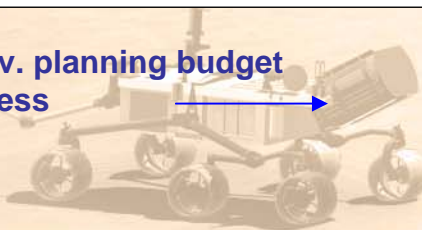


Current and Projected MEP Budgets

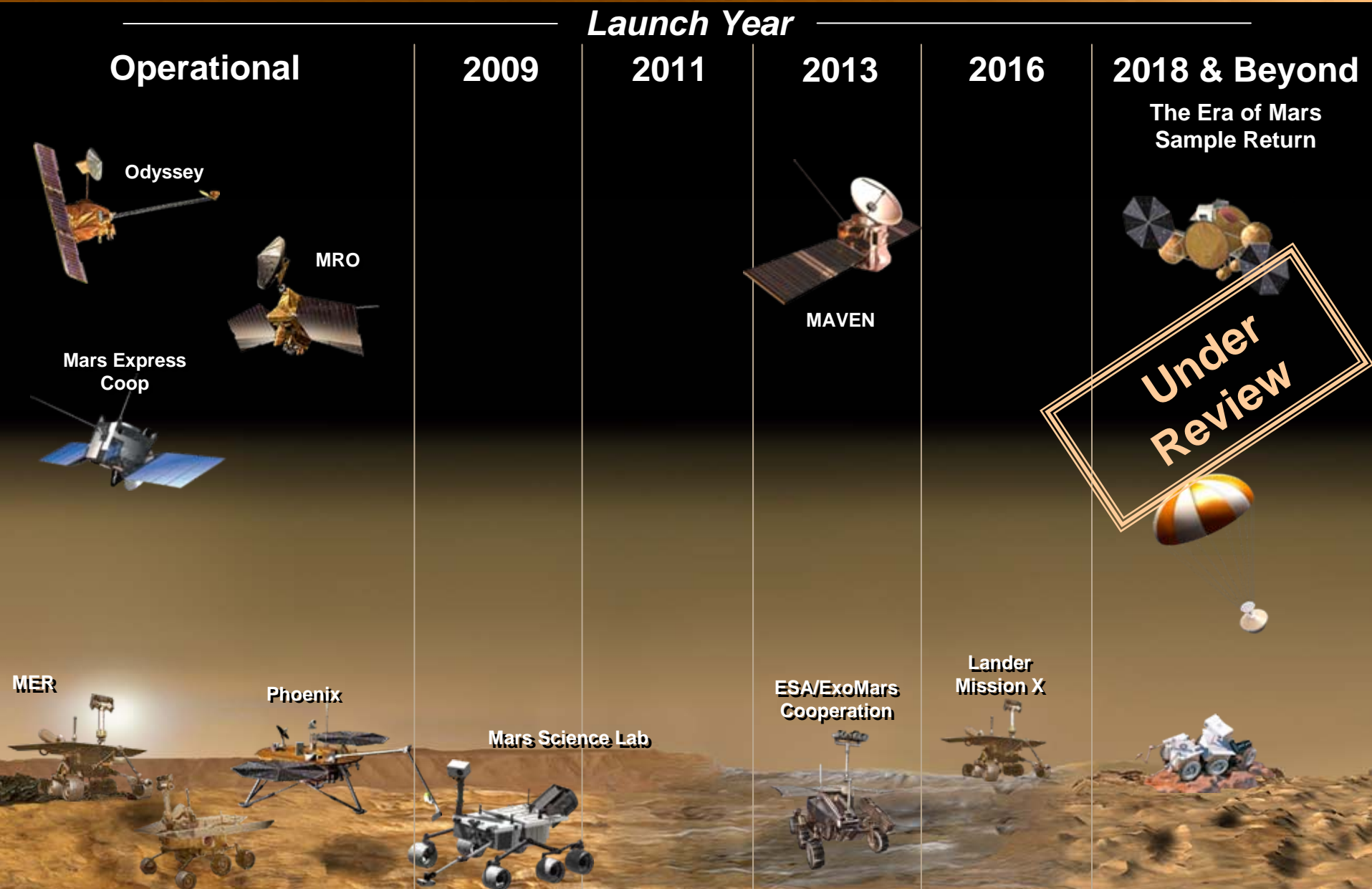


FY09 President's Budget

Planetary Science Div. planning budget
from FY09 POP Process



MEP Next Decade—Where to From Here?



Conclusions

- Re-establishment of a viable Program is underway
 - MSL is a significant challenge in 2008/09
 - The next decade of Mars has started with the selection of MAVEN!
 - Next Decade missions must support established scientific priorities—NRC and MEPAG
- The wild card is the upcoming election cycle
 - Delayed FY09 budget through Congress
 - New TBD Presidential priorities—FY09 budget
- Architectural decisions will be vetted through advisory structures and transition teams
 - MATT helped shape the scientific priorities for 2016 and beyond
 - Continue MSR studies and options for international cooperation
 - Additional analyses and reviews will be necessary
 - Community will remain engaged as usual!

